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Trade and Development Board
Trade and Development Commission
Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development
Sixth session
Geneva, 7 and 8 May 2018
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Trade in services for inclusive and sustainable development
4. Adoption of the report of the Expert Meeting on its sixth session

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1
Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The substantive topic for this session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development was approved by the Extended Bureau of the Trade and Development Board on 22 November 2017. The provisional agenda of the session is reproduced in chapter I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/16 Provisional agenda and annotations

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Item 3
Trade in services for inclusive and sustainable development

3. As a major contributor to output, jobs, investment and trade, services are key to economic and human development and hence to the achievement of the inclusive and Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by Member States of the United Nations. Trade in services has the potential to enhance this role, as its share in the world economy, according to the World Bank, has increased steadily – from 9.2 per cent in 2000 to 12.66 per cent in 2016.[1]

4. Member States of the United Nations will conduct a thematic review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held from 9 to 18 July 2018. The forum, whose theme is "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies", will examine progress achieved in relation to specific goals, including Goals 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) and 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

5. The sixth session of the Expert Meeting, with a focus on trade in services dealing with water and sanitation, energy and food-related logistics, could usefully contribute to the aforementioned review. Experts will consider the dynamics of trade in these services and explore ways and means to facilitate and expand their trade with a view to achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, the Expert Meeting will discuss market access and regulation in these services sectors, including trade liberalization under multilateral and regional trade agreements, and the prospective impact on these sectors of ongoing negotiations in the World Trade Organization. Best-fit practices and policy recommendations will be explored, including through the exchange of national and regional experiences.

6. To facilitate discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a background note, TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/17. In addition, experts are encouraged to prepare case studies on the subject under discussion. These papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Documentation

TD/B/C.I/MEM.4/17	Trade in services for inclusive and sustainable development: Water and sanitation, energy and food-related logistics

Item 4
Adoption of the report of the Expert Meeting on its sixth session

7. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Trade and Development Commission at its next session. The Expert Meeting may wish to authorize the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur, under the authority of the Chair, to prepare the final report after the conclusion of the meeting.

Input from experts

Experts nominated by member States are encouraged to submit brief papers (approximately 5–12 pages) as contributions to the work of the Expert Meeting. The papers will be made available at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received.

Papers should be submitted to the UNCTAD secretariat in advance of the meeting, addressed to Ms. Liping Zhang at tncdb@unctad.org.

[1] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BG.GSR.NFSV.GD.ZS (accessed 22 February 2018).